

Abstract

The invention relates to a method for logging
5 messages on a data bus and temporarily storing the sent
messages in a cyclically overwritable volatile storing
means. The temporarily stored messages can be examined in
a targeted manner for attributes of interest by using a
verification program. A storage of the temporarily stored
10 messages in a non-volatile second storing means can be
initiated by means of definable trigger events that, for
example, are formed from individual or a number of
attributes of the messages. To this end, the occurrence
of the defined trigger event is determined by a
15 monitoring unit, and the data content of the volatile
storing means are subsequently transferred into the
storage locations of the non-volatile storing means.

The principal advantage achieved with the above method
20 resides in the possibility of backtracking the bus
traffic. The exchanged messages may be backtracked and
thus provide for the possibility to determine from which
process and from which control device was the error
message sent on the bus. This assists in a decisive
25 manner in the error-seeking in complex communications
networks. By means of the backtracking of the error
message or with the analysis as to which message has
eventually triggered an error in the communications
network, it may be ascertained which process is
30 responsible for the error and which program step
triggered it. The error-seeking in the software

programming of complex control device combinations is thereby decisively facilitated.

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